

CANADIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 8, 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to discussions which have taken place between representatives of our two Governments regarding future cooperation between Canada and the United States of America in the defence of North America. Our Governments remain convinced that such cooperation, conducted within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty, remains vital to their mutual security, compatible with their national interests and an important element of their contribution to the overall security of the NATO area.

As neighbours and allies within North America, our two Governments have accepted special responsibilities for the security of the Canadian-United States Region of NATO and, in fulfilling these responsibilities, have entered into a number of bilateral arrangements to facilitate joint defence activities. Among these, the arrangements for integrated air defence embodied in the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) have provided, since 1958, the means of exercising effective operational control of the forces assigned by our two Governments to the air defence of North America.

In the years since the NORAD Agreement was first concluded, there have been significant changes in the character of strategic weapons and in the nature of the threat they pose to North America. The most important of these changes has been the major increase in the number and sophistication of strategic missiles. One result has been the enhancement of mutual deterrence. Another is that while long-range bombers continue to pose a threat to North America, missiles now constitute the principal threat.

In light of these developments, our two Governments retain a common interest in the maintenance of effective surveillance and control of North American airspace and in preventing its use for purposes detrimental to the security of North America. Since surveillance and control in peacetime are expected to assume increasing importance, each